A more responsive administration, and (iii) a change in some of the policies of the State Government related to non-timber forest products, land acquisition, restoration of alienated land and autnomy to village panchayats in financial matters.

Annual Growth Rate in GDP

†3639. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 6.5% growth forescast for next four years published in the business Standard dated 8th April, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the annual growth rate in the Gross Domestic Product of the country is estimated to increase by 6.5% by next four years; and

(c) if so, the assessment of Government in this regard togetherwith the details of growth rate likely to be in agriculture, service and industry sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINNSTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. A news report has stated that the economy is projected to grow at 6.5% per annum over the next four years, according to the medium term forecasts of the institute of Economic Growth (IEG).

(b) and (c) the Planning Commission do not make annual forecasts of growth rate of the economy. However, the average rate of economic growth (measured by Gross Domestic Product a factor cost) in the country has been projected as 6.5% per year for the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-98 to 2001-2002). The growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors, industry and services as projected by the Plannng Commission for the Ninth Plan period are 3.9, 7.6 and 7.3 percent per annum respectively.

Mid-Term Appraisal of Ninth Plan

3640. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted a mid-term appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.